

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 4 are canceled, and claims 1 and 10-12 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action at page 4 that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 4.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 10 is objected to because of a typographical error, and claims 11 and 12 are objected to for failing to recite an additional process step. By this Amendment, claims 10-12 are amended to address these issues. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

III. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by G.B. Patent No. 2,202,537 A to Hagger et al. (Hagger). Claim 3 is canceled, rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1 and 5-11.

As discussed above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Hagger does not teach the allowable subject matter of claim 4, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by Hagger. Claims 5-11 depend from claim 1 and thus include all of its features. Accordingly, these dependent claims are not anticipated by Hagger for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

IV. §103 Rejections

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagger in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,107,405 to Wang et al. (Wang) and U.S. Patent No. 5,714,187 to Froidevaux et al. (Froidevaux). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

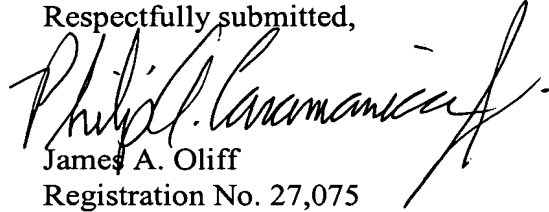
Claim 1 is discussed above. Hagger does not teach or suggest the allowable subject matter of claim 4. In addition, Neither Wang nor Froidevaux remedy the deficiencies of Hagger, because neither of these references teaches or suggests the allowable subject matter of claim 4, which has been incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Hagger, alone or in view of Wang and Froidevaux. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and thus includes all of its features. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over Hagger, alone or in view of Wang and Froidevaux, for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2 and 5-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Philip A. Caramanica, Jr.
Registration No. 51,528

JAO:PAC/tea

Date: May 27, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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